

The Impact of Cooperative Learning on EFL Learners Oral Performance

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Abstract : The mastery of a foreign language often implies adequate speaking competency and communication. However, it has been marked that the Algerian students' oral performance is affected by the lack of language practice opportunities. The present study aims at investigating the impact of cooperative learning strategies on the learners' oral performance through integrating some learning strategies in oral expression classes. Thus, a quasi-experimental study with one group pretest-posttest design was conducted. A convenience sample of 27 second-year students from the University of Jijel, Algeria, was taught during three consecutive weeks through cooperative learning activities in conjunction with regular language instruction in oral expression classes. Regarding data collection, the study makes use of students' questionnaire, a semi-structured interview with the teachers of oral expression, and orally scored pre-posttest. While the students' questionnaire aims at exploring the learners' speaking difficulties and attitudes towards the implementation of the strategy, the semi-structured interview aims at revealing the teachers' instructional practices and attitudes toward the integration of CL activities. Finally, the oral tests were conducted before and after the intervention to measure the effect of the strategy on the learners' oral production. The findings showed that the experimental group scored higher in the posttest. Cooperative learning promotes not only the learner's oral performances, but also motivation and social skills. Consequently, its implementation in the oral expression classes is validated and recommended.

Keywords : cooperative learning, learning, oral performance, teaching

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